



# HEAVEN ON EARTH

## **Part 5: Truth**

We all bend the truth from time to time. Have you ever stopped and asked yourself why? Why do we feel the need to exaggerate, alter the truth or make promises that we can't fulfil? The answer will point us to a deep freedom that comes from embracing what's true.

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:33-37

**Bottom Line:** Stop talking about all the things you are going to do and start listening to what God wants to do.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What do you think are some of the reasons why people lie? Review some of the examples that Pastor Dave used in the beginning of Sunday's message and add some of your own ideas.
2. In Matthew 5:33-37, Jesus talks about people who make oaths. What does he say about how people should talk? Why does he say that they shouldn't swear by heaven, earth, or Jerusalem? What are the things that Jesus is trying to teach in this passage?
3. Swearing an oath may not be something you often do. But Jesus teaches that people should simply be honest all the time. What are the kinds of things that tempt you to misrepresent the truth?
4. On Sunday Pastor Dave talked about how many of us lie because we want to be in control (of what other people think, or of our circumstances, etc). Do you find it hard to give up control in certain areas of your life? Do you find it hard to trust God (give him control) in certain areas of your life? How would a deep trust in that area change the way you feel, act and speak?

## **Moving Forward**

Discuss the application points from the message (see below), and talk about which one(s) would be helpful for you. Add your own idea about how you can embrace simple speech by trusting God.

1. Tank your reputation. Surrender what other people think of and abandon the need to always defend or brag about yourself.
2. Don't overcommit yourself. Keep a calendar of your commitments and only say yes to things that you can follow through on. Practice saying 'no' politely but confidently.
3. Listen more than you speak. Don't control every conversation but listen well to the thoughts and feelings of others.
4. Cultivate an inward disposition of trust and attentiveness. Schedule time to be quiet before God and pray. Surrender areas of your life that you tend to take control away from God in.